

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3 at line 23 with the following amended paragraph:

Pyridoxol in *S. meliloti* IFO 14782 is known to be synthesized by ring closure of two precursors, 1-deoxy-D-xylulose and 4-hydroxy-L-threonine [Tazoe et al., J. Biol. Chem. 25 275:11300-11305 (2000)]. In general, accumulation of amino acids synthesized by a branched pathway is reported to be greatly enhanced by induction of amino acid requirement. Thus it is conceivable to isolate amino acid requiring mutants to get higher vitamin B₆ producer. *S. meliloti* IFO 14782/pVKP601 prepared in (1) [B] is subjected to NTG mutagenesis to produce mutants producing pyridoxol more in the culture broth by induction of amino acid requiring mutants. *Sinorhizobium* (*Ensifer*) *meliloti* IFO 14782/pVKP601 was deposited on February 29, 2008 under deposit number DSM 21235 at the DSMZ (Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zeilkulturen GmbH), Inhoffenstraße 7 B, 38124 Braunschweig, Germany under the provisions of the Budapest Treaty. Cells of the strain are treated with NTG. After treatment, a restorative cultivation is carried out and the resulting culture is plated out on agar medium. To isolate mutants requiring amino acid, the growth of colonies is tested on agar of inorganic nitrogen salt medium containing vitamins and nucleic acids. From the test, colonies requiring amino acid can be selected, and a vitamin B₆ high producer may be selected by testing productivity of vitamin B₆ in the fermentation. The strain *S. meliloti* PY-C341-K1 is one of the objective mutants in this present invention. *Sinorhizobium* (*Ensifer*) *meliloti* PY-C341-K1 was deposited on February 29, 2008 under deposit number DSM 21236 at the DSMZ (Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zeilkulturen GmbH), Inhoffenstraße 7 B, 38124 Braunschweig, Germany under the provisions of the Budapest Treaty.